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# Economic Development Honor

University of Dayton

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# NEWS



*Thursday September 29, 2016*

## Economic Development Honor

The International Economic Development Council has honored the University of Dayton with a Silver Excellence in Economic Development Award for its leadership in developing the Dayton Aerospace Hub.

The University received the award in the category of Partnerships with Educational Institutions for leading a successful partnership among the University and its Research Institute with the City of Dayton, Montgomery County, CityWide Development Corp., the Dayton Development Coalition, the State of Ohio and a number of other community institutions and leaders.

The partners came together in 2009 to develop the Hub as a magnet for aerospace entrepreneurs, innovators and business owners seeking the opportunity to live, work and learn in a creative environment.

"This recognition really goes to all of the partners who came together to promote Dayton's regional aerospace strengths and our legacy of innovation in order to spur the growth of start-ups and attract major high-tech industries," said John Leland, vice president for research and executive director of the Research Institute.

A key achievement of the Hub has been the redevelopment of land purchased by the University from the NCR Corp. into a vibrant academic and research magnet, now home to multimillion dollar on-campus research and development facilities.

In the GE Aviation EPISCenter — a \$53 million, 138,000-square-foot facility with labs and offices — GE Aviation engineers, University researchers and graduate students conduct leading-edge research on aircraft electrical power systems.

Earlier this year, Emerson opened its \$35 million Helix Innovation Center, a one-of-a-kind research center to create new technologies to solve the world's heating, cooling and refrigeration problems. The 40,000 square-foot center contains five simulated environments where University of Dayton students, faculty and researchers work alongside Emerson engineers and industry leaders on innovations.

The Hub grew out of the City of Dayton's 2020 Economic Development Strategy, which recognized the need for new approaches to create long-term, sustainable centers of economic growth for the city and the region.

The Hub project adopted and emphasized many of the City of Dayton's economic development practices by focusing on systems and relationships instead of real estate and creating an environment that businesses recognize as a place where they can gain productive advantages.

"This recognition for the University's role in the Aerospace Hub is well-deserved," said Steve Budd, president of CityWide Development Corp. "The University led the collaboration that has resulted in fabulous private sector partnerships such as the GE Aviation EPISCenter, the Emerson Helix Innovation Center and the IDcast initiative in Tech Town."

IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials and the year's most influential leaders. These awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban and rural communities. The award was presented at a ceremony on Sept. 27, during the IEDC Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. The IEDC is a non-profit membership organization with 4,700 members — the largest organization of its kind serving economic developers.

“On behalf of the IEDC board of directors and Excellence in Economic Development Awards Advisory Committee, congratulations to University of Dayton. Not only did they work to provide a necessary service to their community; but also, their participation in the awards program sheds light on their stellar projects which other communities can now use as a benchmark,” said Barry Matherly, IEDC Board Chair and president and CEO of the Greater Richmond Partnership. “The awards process is a thorough, non-biased and multi-layered process. These are extraordinary accomplishments for all winners.”

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